## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00866 281432Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /070 W

-----290207Z 029070 /73

R 281342Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1297
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL GOTEBORG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 0866

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, FI
SUBJECT: TALKS BETWEEN GOVT PARTIES AND LEFT ON ISSUES RELATING
TO FORMATION OF MAJORITY GOVT

REF: HELSINKI 0817

1. TALKS HELD APRIL 22 BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THREE CENTRIST GOVT PARTIES WITH REPS OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) AND COMMUNIST ELECTION-FRONT ORGANIZATION SKDL WERE INCONCLUSIVE. IT WAS SUGGESTED AT MEETING THAT WORKING GROUPS BE ESTABLISHED TO EXPLORE QUESTIONS ON WHICH THERE DISAGREEMENT AMONG PARTIES, BUT NO CONCRETE DECISIONS WERE MADE. IT WAS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT ADDITIONAL TALKS WILL BE HELD EARLY IN MAY.

2. INFLUENTIAL INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER HELSINGIN SANOMAT IN APRIL 23 EDITORIAL CALLED FOR PROMPT RESIGNATION OF CURRENT MINORITY GOVT TO IMPROVE CLIMATE OF NEGOTIATIONS TO FORM MAJORITY GOVT. SDP POLITICIANS REPEATED SAME THEME UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 HELSIN 00866 281432Z

DURING THEIR WEEKEND SPEECHES APRIL 23-24. CENTER PARTY GOVERNING COUNCIL MET OVER WEEKEND AND ISSUED COMMUNIQUE STATING THAT COUNTRY'S CONTINUING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES MAKE NECESSARY THE FORMATION OF MAJORITY GOVT BETWEEN CENTER GROUPS AND LEFT. CENTER PARTY CHAIRMAN JOHANNES VIROLAINEN ADDRESSING PARTY MEETING THANKED CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND CHRISTIAN LEAGUE FOR THEIR PARLIAMENTARY

SUPPORT BUT SAID IT NOT IN FINLAND'S LONG-TERM INTEREST TO HAVE POLITICAL DIVISION ALONG RIGHT/LEFT LINES. HE CALLED MAJORITY GOVT WITH SDP ONLY REAL ALTERNATIVE.

3. PRESS REPORTS APRIL 25 INDICATED THAT PRES KEKKONEN
BEHIND SCENES HAS VOICED CONCERN OVER DETERIORATION IN
RELATIONS BETWEEN CENTRIST GROUPS AND SDP AND HAS URGED THEM
COME TO AGREEMENT ON LAND PACKAGE ISSUE WHICH CURRENTLY
IS MOST VISIBLE POINT OF DISPUTE. VIROLAINEN IN APRIL 25
TV INTERVIEW CONFIRMED THAT PRES KEKKONEN HAS VOICED
SERIOUS HOPES SDP AND CENTER PARTY CAN COME TO AGREEMENT
ON LAND PACKAGE QUESTION. A NEW COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ON
THIS MATTER HAS BEEN PREPARED, REPORTEDLY AT KEKKONEN'S
INITIATIVE. VIROLAINEN ASKED FOR NEW TALKS WITH SDP ON
LAND PACKAGE LEGISLATION FOR APRIL 28. SDP LEADERS
SORSA AND SUNDQVIST RETURN TO FINLAND FROM SOVIET UNION
EVENING OF APRIL 28; NO ACTION IS EXPECTED UNTIL THEY
HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY ISSUE.
HOUSTON

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TAGS: PINT, ELAB, FI

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